



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
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Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by Mayor Streeter.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Sheets

Members Absent: Councilor Watson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was lead by The Day reporter Matt Collette.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2010-0063 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of March 2, 2010 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2010-0049 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Lisa Early - \$10.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Jessica Reynolds - \$10.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Greg Bobat - \$6.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Various Donations - \$1,385.38 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

City of Groton Matching Funds - \$1,318.41 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Michael and Rebecca Freeman (BONCO Group) - \$120.00 - Social Services Discretionary

George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Barbara Weeman - \$10.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Benjamin and Annie Philbrick - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2009-0304 Adoption of Rules for Twenty-Seventh Town Council

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0051 Agreement with the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut to Establish an Agency Endowment Fund

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0052 Port Security Grant

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0054 Annual RTM Budget Meeting

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0055 Appointment of Nancy Gilly to the Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) Regional Board

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0056 Appointment of Roscoe Merritt to Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) Regional Board

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0057 Appointment of Bob Westhaver to Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0058 Appointment of Susan Kietzman to Library Board

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0059 Reappointment of Richard Semeraro to Library Board

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0060 Reappointment of Joan Warren to Library Board

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0061 Reappointment of Rosemary Duval-Arnould to Library Board

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0062 Reappointment of Mary Ellen Furlong to Inland Wetlands Agency

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.
The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilors received emails regarding the budget, an email from State legislators outlining the current fiscal outlook for Connecticut, and a letter from the Mystic & Noank Library regarding their budget.

Councilor Peruzzotti attended a Phase II School Design Committee meeting. She, along with Councilor Flax, met with some taxpayers who recently sent emails regarding the budget.

Councilor Monteiro, along with Mayor Streeter, met with Superintendent of Schools Paul Kadri

regarding the Board of Education budget.

Councilor Kolnaski attended a Ledge Light Health District meeting, a Town Council/Board of Education/RTM Liaison Committee meeting, and a fund-raiser for the Fitch Senior High School graduation party.

Councilor O'Beirne walked through the new Senior Center. He stated that the building is beautiful inside and commended the Town on completing the project two million dollars under the budgeted amount.

The Mayor, along with Councilor O'Beirne, attended a presentation on the Battlefields of the Pequot War Project. Mayor Streeter announced that the ground-breaking for the Marine Science Magnet High School will be on April 7, 2010. He also received a call regarding Foxwoods Casino closing the commuter lot at Midway.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher stated that the RTM meeting scheduled for March 17, 2010, has been cancelled.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk stated that she is currently on the Board of Directors for Mystic Area Shelter & Hospitality (MASH) and, if the Council has no objection, would like to continue to serve on that board.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager stated that the Senior Center is now open, the official ribbon-cutting ceremony will be March 27, 2010, and a dinner/dance will be held on April 1, 2010. He stated that Councilors have received a copy of the proposed budget and any questions can be directed to him. The budget will be posted on the Town website and copies will be at the libraries and the Town Clerk's office. A Public Hearing is scheduled for March 29, 2010.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti

Councilor Peruzzotti read the minutes of the meeting held on March 9, 2010, which are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

Councilor Flax read the minutes of the meeting held on March 9, 2010, which are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

There was a meeting on March 9, 2010; as Councilor Watson is absent, a report will be made at the next Town Council meeting.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

Mayor Streeter stated that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the last Committee of the Whole meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS**2009-0304 Adoption of Rules for Twenty-Seventh Town Council****RESOLUTION ADOPTING RULES FOR THE TWENTY-SEVENTH TOWN COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, at the first convening of the Twenty-Seventh Town Council on December 1, 2009, Mayor Streeter appointed a Temporary Rules Committee, and

WHEREAS, members of the Temporary Rules Committee recommended only minor updates and correction of Charter section references to the Temporary Rules, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council adopts the Rules of Procedure of the Twenty-Seventh Town Council (attached), said Rules to be effective immediately.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0051 Agreement with the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut to Establish an Agency Endowment Fund**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT FOR AN AGENCY FUND ENDOWMENT**

WHEREAS, the Groton Public Library does not currently have an endowment fund and it has received a \$5,000 donation stipulating that it be placed in an endowment fund, and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to have an endowment fund whereby residents and patrons can easily donate to the Library, and

WHEREAS, Library staff have researched various options for setting up an endowment fund and identified the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut as the best option, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager or his designated agent is authorized to enter into an agreement for an agency fund endowment with the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0052 Port Security Grant**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR A PORT SECURITY GRANT FOR A MARINE PATROL VESSEL**

WHEREAS, the Port Security Grant Program provides funds to public safety and law enforcement

entities to acquire necessary equipment to enhance port security and address associated homeland security issues, and

WHEREAS, the grant would fund training in equipment use as well as practical exercises to further develop and improve upon the recognized standard skills, methods and techniques in the prevention, detection, response and recovery from terroristic attacks, activities or incidents to the Port of New London and its surrounding waters, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Police plan to use the grant to purchase a marine patrol, mission-specific, equipped and designed vessel along with related training of personnel in the use of said vessel to enhance the public safety for recreational, commercial, and military vessels, as well as swimmers and other citizens using the navigable waters within the jurisdictional water boundaries of the Town of Groton, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager or his designated agent may apply for the Port Security Grant of \$352,384 for Fiscal Year 2010.

A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

For clarification, the Town Manager stated that on maps the local waterway area that the marine patrol vessel will monitor is referred to as the "Port of New London".

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0054

Annual RTM Budget Meeting

RESOLUTION SETTING RTM BUDGET MEETING DATE ON THE 2010-2011 ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET

WHEREAS, Section 9.3.1 of the Groton Town Charter requires that the Town Council determine the date for the annual budget meeting of the Representative Town Meeting, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center, Newtown Road, Groton, Connecticut.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

A motion to approve Resolutions 2010-0055 Appointment of Nancy Gilly to the Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) Regional Board, 2010-0056 Appointment of Roscoe Merritt to Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) Regional Board, 2010-0057 Appointment of Bob Westhaver to Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community, 2010-0058 Appointment of Susan Kietzman to Library Board, 2010-0059 Reappointment of Richard Semeraro to Library Board, 2010-0060 Reappointment of Joan Warren to Library Board, 2010-0061 Reappointment of Rosemary Duval-Arnould to Library Board, and 2010-0062 Reappointment of Mary Ellen Furlong as an Alternate Member to Inland Wetlands Agency was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski and so voted unanimously.

2010-0055

Appointment of Nancy Gilly to the Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) Regional Board

RESOLUTION APPOINTING NANCY GILLY TO THE SOUTHEAST AREA TRANSIT (SEAT) REGIONAL BOARD

RESOLVED, that Nancy Gilly, 43 Merlino Drive, is hereby appointed to the Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) Board for a term expiring 12/1/13.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0056 Appointment of Roscoe Merritt to Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) Regional Board

RESOLUTION APPOINTING ROSCOE MERRITT TO THE SOUTHEAST AREA TRANSIT (SEAT) REGIONAL BOARD

RESOLVED, that Roscoe Merritt, 19 Birmingham Court, is hereby appointed to the Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) Board for a term expiring 12/1/11.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0057 Appointment of Bob Westhaver to Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community

RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOB WESTHAVER TO THE TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

RESOLVED, that Bob Westhaver, 809 Shennecossett Road, is hereby appointed to the Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community for a term ending 12/2/2010.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0058 Appointment of Susan Kietzman to Library Board

RESOLUTION APPOINTING SUSAN KIETZMAN TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Susan B. Kietzman, 25 West Mystic Avenue, Mystic, is appointed to the Library Board for a term ending 12/31/11.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0059 Reappointment of Richard Semeraro to Library Board

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING RICHARD SEMERARO TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Richard Semeraro, 202 High Street, Mystic, is reappointed to the Library Board for a term ending 12/31/12.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0060 Reappointment of Joan Warren to Library Board

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JOAN WARREN TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Joan Warren, 234 Elm Street, is reappointed to the Library Board for a term ending 12/31/12.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0061 Reappointment of Rosemary Duval-Arnould to Library Board

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ROSEMARY DUVAL-ARNOULD TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Rosemary E. Duval-Arnould, 90 Colony Road, is reappointed to the Library Board for a term ending 12/31/12.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0062 Reappointment of Mary Ellen Furlong to Inland Wetlands Agency

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MARY ELLEN FURLONG AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER
TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY

RESOLVED, that Mary Ellen Furlong, 57 Fishtown Lane, Mystic, is reappointed as an alternate to the Inland Wetlands Agency for a term ending 12/31/11.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant